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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P022829WO CTH3 ANF	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/PEA/416
International application No. PCT/GB2004/005027	International filing date (day/month/year) 30.11.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 01.12.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65B19/20, B65D85/10, B65B65/02			
Applicant BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO (INVESTMENTS) LTD et al.			
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 11 sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>			
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>			
Date of submission of the demand 29.06.2005		Date of completion of this report 20.10.2005	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016		Authorized Officer Vigilante, M Telephone No. +31 70 340-2902	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
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International application No.
PCT/GB2004/005027

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

Description, Pages

3-6, 9-15	as originally filed
1, 2, 7, 8, 8a	received on 29.06.2005 with letter of 28.06.2005

Claims, Numbers

1-45	received on 29.06.2005 with letter of 28.06.2005
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Drawings, Sheets

1/12-12/12	as originally filed
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- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*):
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
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Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☒ claims Nos. 43-45

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☒ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. 43-45

☐ the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:

the written form

☐ has not been furnished

☐ does not comply with the standard

the computer readable form

☐ has not been furnished

☐ does not comply with the standard

☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-*bis* of the Administrative Instructions.

☐ See separate sheet for further details

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
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International application No.
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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-45
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-45
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-45
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and /or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

see separate sheet

Re Item III.

Under Rule 6.2(a) claims should not refer to drawings and/or the description.
This is not the case for claims 43-45. These claims should be deleted.

Re Item V.

1 The following documents are referred to in this communication:

- D1: US-A-5 588 281 (BORIANI ET AL) 31 December 1996 (1996-12-31)
- D2: US-A-4 738 359 (PHILLIPS, JR. ET AL) 19 April 1988 (1988-04-19)
- D3: DE 102 56 370 A1 (FOCKE GMBH & CO. KG; FOCKE & CO.) 9 June 2004
(2004-06-09)
- D4: US-A-3 226 010 (JR. FORD ROGERS,) 28 December 1965 (1965-12-28)
- D5: US-A-4 184 591 (GELDMACHER, ERWIN H) 22 January 1980 (1980-01-22)
- D6: FR-A-2 614 720 (WIDMANN HORST) 4 November 1988 (1988-11-04)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

an apparatus for forming a cigarette pack (1) comprising a first cigarette wrapping unit, a second cigarette wrapping unit and a third pack combining unit (59), wherein the first cigarette wrapping unit is operable to assemble a first inner frame blank member about a first bundle of cigarettes, the second cigarette wrapping unit is operable to assemble a second inner frame blank member about a second bundle of cigarettes, and the third pack combining unit (59) is operable to assemble an outer blank member (3) about a pack assembly, which pack assembly (87) comprises assembled blanks (4) and (5).

Although claim 1 does not disclose explicitly a cigarette wrapping unit it is clear that such device, which is known in the prior art, is implicitly disclosed in D1 which shows packages of cigarettes wrapped in a carton blank and subsequently collated in a combining unit (59) as in claim 1.

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(SEPARATE SHEET)**

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The terms first and second wrapping unit have been considered as non limiting features of claim 1 because dependent claims 2 and 3 refer respectively to separate units or to a single unit.

Thus D1 shows all the features of claim 1.

2.2 Additionally also document D2 shows all the features of claim 1.

3 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 41

3.1 A similar novelty objection as the one raised under paragraph 2 can be raised against independent claim 41. This claim is therefore considered not new in the light of D1.

3.2 Additionally, although claims 1 and 41 have been drafted as separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter and to differ from each other only with regard to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection is sought. The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness and as such do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT.

4 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-29, 42

Dependent claims 2-7, 8-21, 22-29, 42 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

5 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 30

5.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 30 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

a method of assembly of a cigarette pack (1) comprising forming a first wrapped bundle of cigarettes having a first inner frame member (4), forming a second wrapped bundle of cigarettes having a second inner frame member (5), transporting said first wrapped bundle of cigarettes and said second wrapped bundle of cigarettes to a pack combining unit (59) in combined relationship as a pack assembly (87), and assembling an outer frame blank member (3) about the pack assembly (87).

5.1.1 Thus D1 shows all the features of claim 30.

6 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 31-40

Dependent claims 2-7, 8-21, 22-29, 42 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

7. Independent claims 1,30,41 are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).

Re Item VI.

The attention of the applicant is drawn on document D3 cited in the international search report and published on 9 June 2004, after the priority date of the international application, and filed on 02 December 2002. This document may be relevant to the determination of novelty and inventive step by designated or elected Offices (Rule 70.10).

29. 06. 2005

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Claims

(42)

1. An apparatus for forming a cigarette pack comprising a first cigarette wrapping unit, a second cigarette wrapping unit and a third pack combining unit, wherein the first cigarette wrapping unit is operable to assemble a first inner frame blank member A about a first bundle of cigarettes, the second cigarette wrapping unit is operable to assemble a second inner frame blank member B about a second bundle of cigarettes, and the third pack combining unit is operable to assemble an outer blank member C about a pack assembly AB, which pack assembly AB comprises assembled blanks A and B.
2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said first cigarette wrapping unit, second cigarette wrapping unit and the third pack combining unit are separate cigarette packing machines.
3. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first and the second cigarette wrapping units are provided by a single unit operable to assemble a first inner blank member A about a first bundle of cigarettes and a second inner blank member B about a second bundle of cigarettes.
4. An apparatus according to any of Claims 1-3, wherein the third pack combining unit is configured to receive the first assembled cigarette bundle and the second assembled cigarette bundle in face-to-face overlaying relationship.
5. An apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the third pack combining unit is operable to assemble the outer frame member C about the pack assembly AB, which pack assembly AB comprises the first and the second assembled cigarette bundle, said outer frame member C having a hinge line along a mating side edge of the first assembled cigarette bundle and the second assembled cigarette bundle.
6. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein in advance of either of inner frame blank members A or B being assembled about the first or the second bundle of cigarettes respectively, the bundle of cigarettes is wrapped in a wrapping material.
7. An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the wrapping material is foil.

8. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the first cigarette wrapping unit is configured to form a bundle of thirteen cigarettes.
9. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the second cigarette wrapping unit is configured to form a bundle of seven cigarettes.
10. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the first cigarette wrapping unit and the second cigarette wrapping unit each comprise a cigarette receiving station, a wrapping station, an inner frame blank conveyor, a folding station and a transferring conveyor.
11. An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the first cigarette wrapping unit and the second cigarette wrapping unit further comprise a drying drum.
12. An apparatus according to Claims 10 or 11, wherein in the first and the second cigarette wrapping unit, the wrapped bundle of cigarettes is conveyed to the folding station in the inner frame blank conveyor.
13. An apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the first and/or the second cigarette wrapping machine further comprise an indexed advancing mechanism whereby the wrapped bundle of cigarettes is advanced into the folding station.
14. An apparatus according to any of Claims 10-13, wherein the first and the second cigarette wrapping units further comprise a blank feed from which, in use, an inner frame blank member A or B is conveyed into the folding station in the inner frame blank conveyor.
15. An apparatus according to any of Claims 10-14, wherein the folding station comprises a rounded pocket, a square pocket or a bevelled pocket.
16. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the first cigarette wrapping machine or the second cigarette wrapping unit further comprises an inverting station, whereby the assembled cigarette bundle is inverted before being conveyed by the transfer conveyor to the third pack combining unit.
17. An apparatus according to any of Claims 10-16, wherein the transfer conveyors of the first cigarette wrapping unit and the second cigarette wrapping machine are

each operable to convey the assembled cigarette bundles to the third pack combining unit.

18. An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the transfer conveyors of the first cigarette wrapping unit and the second cigarette wrapping unit are adjacent one another in offset, parallel relation.
19. An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the transfer conveyor of the second cigarette wrapping unit is positioned to be lower than the transfer conveyor of the first cigarette wrapping machine.
20. An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the transfer conveyor of the first cigarette wrapping machine is positioned lower than the transfer conveyor of the second cigarette wrapping machine.
21. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the third pack combining unit comprises a conveyor transfer station having a first transfer plunger and a second transfer plunger, the first transfer plunger crossing a conveyor line from the first cigarette wrapping unit, the second transfer plunger crossing a conveyor line from the second cigarette wrapping machine, whereby both the first and the second transfer plungers are operable to deposit assembled cigarette bundles A and/or B onto a combination conveyor thereby forming pack assembly AB.
22. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the third pack combining unit comprises a blank feed from which an outer frame blank member C is fed into a folding station.
23. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the third pack combining unit further comprises a cutting device which cutting device is operable to cut the outer frame blank member C along the bottom wall thereof to allow opening of the hinged lid pack along the vertical hinge line.
24. An apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein the cutting device is a knife.
25. An apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the third pack combining unit further comprises an end sealing device.

26. An apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the end sealing device is a foam belt.
27. An apparatus according to Claim 25 or Claim 26, wherein the end sealing device is a continuous belt.
28. An apparatus according to any of claims 10-26, wherein the transfer conveyors of the first and the second cigarette wrapping units each further comprise sensors whereby the sensors are operable to detect a shortage of assembled cigarette bundles A and/or B on the transfer conveyors.
29. An apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein the sensors are in communication with the first and second cigarette wrapping units and the third pack combining unit such that the operating speeds of the units are controllable in accordance with a supply-demand relationship for the assembled cigarette bundles in each of the three units.
30. A method of assembly of a cigarette pack, the method comprising forming a first wrapped bundle of cigarettes having a first inner frame member A, forming a second wrapped bundle of cigarettes having a second inner frame member B, transporting said first wrapped bundle of cigarettes and said second wrapped bundle of cigarettes to a pack combining unit in combined relationship as a pack assembly AB, and assembling an outer frame blank member C about the pack assembly AB.
31. A method according to Claim 30, wherein the first wrapped bundle of cigarettes having a first inner frame member A is formed on a first cigarette wrapping unit in which a first bundle of cigarettes is wrapped in a wrapper, a first inner blank member A is fed to a folding station in the first cigarette wrapping unit and partially erected, the first of wrapped bundle of cigarettes is plunged into the partially erected first inner blank member A, and the partially erected first inner blank member A is completely erected about the first wrapped bundle of cigarettes.

32. A method according to Claim 30, wherein the second wrapped bundle of cigarettes having a second inner frame member B is formed on a second cigarette wrapping unit in which a second bundle of cigarettes is wrapped in a wrapper, a second inner blank member B is fed to a folding station in the second cigarette wrapping unit and partially erected, the second wrapped bundle of cigarettes is plunged into the partially erected second inner blank member B, and the partially erected second inner blank member B is completely erected about the second wrapped bundle of cigarettes.
33. A method according to any one Claims 30-32, wherein the outer blank member C is formed about pack assembly AB on the third pack combining unit by partially erecting outer blank member C, plunging pack assembly AB into the partially erected outer blank member C and completely erecting the outer blank member C about the pack assembly AB.
34. A method according to Claim 33, wherein when outer blank member C is partially erected about pack assembly AB, a vertical hinge panel of the outer blank member C is adhesively applied to the first assembled cigarette bundle of pack assembly AB thereby allowing the pack assembly AB to hinge about a vertical hinge line.
35. A method according to any of Claims 30-34, further comprises cutting a bottom panel of the outer blank member C in half to allow the first assembled cigarette bundle and the second assembled cigarette bundle to separate about the vertical hinge line.
36. A method according to any of Claims 30-35 wherein the first assembled cigarette bundle comprises seven cigarettes.
37. A method according to any of Claims 30-36 wherein the second assembled cigarette bundle comprises thirteen cigarettes.
38. A method according to any of Claims 30-37, wherein the first and the second assembled cigarette bundles further comprise a wrapping material wrapped about the bundle of cigarettes.

39. A method according to Claim 38, wherein the wrapping material is a foil.
40. A method according to any one of claims 30 to 39, wherein the cigarette pack is a hinged lid side-by-side vertically hinged cigarette pack
41. A system providing a cigarette packing machine, the machine consisting of three separate units or machines, a first cigarette wrapping unit, a second cigarette wrapping unit and a third pack combining unit.
42. A system according to Claim 40, wherein the system provides for creation of a first and a second foil wrapped inner frame bundle for combining at a subsequent unit which partially surrounds them with an outer frame having a hinged lid.
43. An apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
44. A method substantially as hereinbefore described
45. A system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Apparatus and Method for Packing Smoking Articles

(42)

This invention relates to apparatus and methods for packaging smoking articles such as cigars, cigarillos and cigarettes, all of which articles will be referred to herein for simplicity as "cigarettes".

The present invention is concerned, in particular, with a cigarette wrapping machine which forms a hinged lid, hinged side-by-side carton or pack of cigarettes wherein a first foil wrapped bundle is placed in hinged side-by-side relationship with a second foil wrapped bundle, an example of such a carton or pack being described in our co-pending application WO 2004/080844, which application is incorporated herein by reference.

WO 2004/080844 describes a smoking article blank, the blank comprising a lid portion and a base portion, the lid portion and the base portion being interconnected along a hinge line and the base portion comprising a first main panel, a second main panel and a bottom panel, each panel being defined by longitudinal side margins, the first and the second main panels each having side panels, which side panels depend from the longitudinal margins of the first and second main panels, at least one of the side panels having a side flap depending from a longitudinal margin thereof, the bottom panel having a line of perforation extending between the longitudinal margins thereof, and the side flap being connected to the adjacent side panel by a hinge line. There is also provided a plurality of inner blanks, which inner blanks may be used in combination with the above-described smoking article blank. When erected, each inner blank is capable of enwrapping a bundle of smoking articles.

An aspect of the present invention provides an apparatus for forming a cigarette pack comprising three units, a first cigarette wrapping unit, a second cigarette wrapping unit and a third pack combining unit, wherein the first cigarette wrapping unit is operable to assemble a first inner frame blank member A about a first bundle of cigarettes, the second cigarette wrapping unit is operable to assemble a second inner frame blank member B about a second bundle of cigarettes, and the third pack combining unit is operable to assemble an outer blank member C about a pack assembly AB, which pack assembly AB comprises assembled blanks A and B.

Preferably the first cigarette wrapping unit, second cigarette wrapping unit and the third pack combining unit are provided by separate cigarette packing machines.

In an alternative arrangement the first and the second cigarette wrapping units may be provided by a single unit operable to assemble a first inner blank member A about a first bundle of cigarettes and a second inner blank member B about a second bundle of cigarettes.

Preferably the third pack combining unit is configured to receive the first assembled cigarette bundle and the second assembled cigarette bundle in face-to-face overlaying relationship. The first assembled cigarette bundle comprises the first bundle of cigarettes surrounded by the first inner frame blank member A and the second assembled cigarette bundle comprises the second bundle of cigarettes surrounded by the second inner frame blank member B.

Advantageously the third pack combining unit is operable to assemble the outer frame member C about the pack assembly AB, which pack assembly AB comprises the first and the second assembled cigarette bundle, said outer frame member C having a hinge line along a mating side edge of the first assembled cigarette bundle and the second assembled cigarette bundle.

in accordance with a supply-demand relationship for the assembled cigarette bundles in each of the three units.

A further aspect of the present invention provides a method of assembly of a cigarette pack, the method comprising forming a first wrapped bundle of cigarettes having a first inner frame member A, forming a second wrapped bundle of cigarettes having a second inner frame member B, transporting said first wrapped bundle of cigarettes and said second wrapped bundle of cigarettes to a pack combining unit in combined relationship as a pack assembly AB, and assembling an outer frame blank member C about the pack assembly AB.

Preferably the first wrapped bundle of cigarettes having a first inner frame member A, that is the first assembled cigarette bundle, is formed on a first cigarette wrapping unit in which a first bundle of cigarettes is wrapped in a wrapper, a first inner blank member A is fed to a folding station in the first cigarette wrapping unit and partially erected, the first of wrapped bundle of cigarettes is plunged into the partially erected first inner blank member A, and the partially erected first inner blank member A is completely erected about the first wrapped bundle of cigarettes.

Preferably the second wrapped bundle of cigarettes having a second inner frame member B, that is the second assembled cigarette bundle, is formed on a second cigarette wrapping unit in which a second bundle of cigarettes is wrapped in a wrapper, a second inner blank member B is fed to a folding station in the second cigarette wrapping unit and partially erected, the second wrapped bundle of cigarettes is plunged into the partially erected second inner blank member B, and the partially erected second inner blank member B is completely erected about the second wrapped bundle of cigarettes.

It is much by preference that outer blank member C is formed about pack assembly AB on the third pack combining unit by partially erecting outer blank member C, plunging pack assembly AB into the partially erected outer blank member C and completely erecting the outer blank member C about the pack assembly AB.

Advantageously when outer blank member C is partially erected about pack assembly AB, a vertical hinge panel of the outer blank member C is adhesively applied to the first assembled cigarette bundle of pack assembly AB thereby allowing the pack assembly AB to hinge about a vertical hinge line.

Advantageously the method of the present invention further comprises cutting a bottom panel of the outer blank member C in half to allow the first assembled cigarette bundle and the second assembled cigarette bundle to separate about the vertical hinge line.

Preferably the first assembled cigarette bundle comprises seven cigarettes. Preferably the second assembled cigarette bundle comprises thirteen cigarettes.

It is much by preference that the first and the second assembled cigarette bundles further comprise a wrapping material wrapped about the bundle of cigarettes. More preferably the wrapping material is a foil.

Preferably, the cigarette pack is a hinged lid side-by-side vertically hinged cigarette pack.

A yet further aspect of the present invention provides a system providing a cigarette packing machine, the machine consisting of three separate units or machines, a first cigarette wrapping unit, a second cigarette wrapping unit and a third pack combining unit. The system of the present invention provides for creation of a first and a second foil wrapped inner frame bundle for combining at a subsequent unit which partially surrounds them with an outer frame having a hinged lid. The outer frame member also provides for a side hinge and a separable bottom wall such that each of the individual wrapped bundles may be hinged along a given adjoining line.

8a

In order that the invention be easily understood and readily carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hinged side by side pack of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective partial cut away view of the first bundle of wrapped cigarettes formed by the cigarette wrapping unit of the present invention;

Figure 3 is a perspective partial cut away view of the second bundle of wrapped cigarettes formed by the cigarette wrapping unit of the present invention;

Figure 4 is a plan view of the outer frame blank member C used by the cigarette wrapping unit of the present invention;

Figure 5 is a plan view of one of the inner frame members used by the cigarette wrapping unit of the present invention for creating one of the assembled cigarette bundles;

Figure 6 is a plan view of one of the inner frame members used by the cigarette wrapping unit of the present invention for creating one of the assembled cigarette bundles;

Figure 7 is a top plan layout view of the cigarette wrapping units which form part of the present invention;

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